

DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows.

Replace FIG. 1 with the attached replacement sheet FIG. 1 (1 sheet).

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REMARKS

The Examiner objects to Figure 1 as not including the legend – Prior Art –.

Claims 1-54 are pending in the application. The Examiner allows claims 29-54. The Examiner objects to claims 3-5, 10-14, 17, 19-21, 24 and 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. The Examiner rejects claims 15-16, 18, 22, 23 and 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,494). The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, and 6-8 under 35 USC § 103(a) over Hughes in view of Byers (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,815). Applicants amend claims 1, 16-19 and 22-26, and cancel claims 15 and 22. Claims 1-14, 16-21, and 23-54 remain in the case. Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Drawing Objections

The Applicants amend Figure 1 and submit a replacement sheet to obviate the Examiner's objection.

Claims Allowed

The Applicants thank Examiner Pizarro for his allowance of claims 29-54.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 3-5, 9-14, 17, 19-21, 24 and 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. The Applicants have chosen to rewrite claims 17, 19, 24, and 26 in independent form to place them in condition for allowance. Claims 16-21 and 23-28 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2 and 6-8 under 35 USC § 103(a) over Hughes in view of Byers. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 1 recites *a plurality of framer farms adapted to generate a corresponding plurality of event signals responsive to a corresponding plurality of signaling events, where the event signals to request service for corresponding framer farms*. The Applicants amend claim 1 to clarify that the event signals request service for corresponding framer farms. The Examiner alleges that calendars 112 and 114 disclose the recited framer farms. Hughes,

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however, does not teach or suggest servicing its calendars 112 and 114, much less generating signals requesting their service. Hughes further does not disclose generating event signals in response to the recited signaling events. Nothing in Byers cures these deficiencies. The Examiner alleges Byers' framers 88 and DS1 signals disclose a recited framer farm and event signals, respectively. The DS1 signals, however, do not request service for framers 88, nor are they transmitted in response to any signaling event. Byers, col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 2. Hughes and Byers, therefore, do not anticipate claim 1 and their corresponding dependent claims.

Claim 6 recites *an event queue adapted to queue the plurality of event signals and a status register adapted to maintain a status of the event queue*. The Examiner alleges service queue 122 and next connection table 116 disclose the recited event queue and status register, respectively. The service queue 122, however, queues pointers 244 and 246 to virtual connection identifiers within the next connection table 116. There is no disclosure in Hughes that the next connection table 116 maintains the status of service queue 122, as the transmission control unit 106 maintains the pointers 244 and 246. Hughes, col. 8, lines 31-33. Hughes, therefore, does not anticipate claim 6 and its corresponding dependent claims.

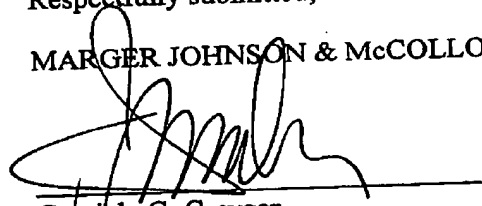
CONCLUSION

The Applicants request allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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